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Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—" The Government have given a list of papers from which security has been demanded. I am asking whether there is any other press or paper which wrote about Quetta and went scotfree?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam:—" I have not got a catalogue of all the papers in which publications about Quetta appeared."

Government Press

Reduction of charges for the publication of insolvency notices in the Fort St. George Gazette *and the District Gazettes.*

* 227 *Q.*—Mr. G. Rameswara Rao: Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Government have under consideration any proposal for reducing the charges for the publication of insolvency notices in the Fort St. George and District Gazettes, and if so, what it is?

A.—No.

11-30 a.m. Mr. G. Rameswara Rao:—" May I know, Sir, why in the case of insolvency notifications that are published, the style adopted by the Madras High Court in the form of a consolidated list in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, is not adopted by the mufassal courts so as to reduce the cost of publication?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam:—" Possibly that is a question which will have to be addressed to my Hon. Colleague the Law Member."

Labour

Measures, if any, to relieve unemployment.

* 228 *Q.*—Mr. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi: Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state with reference to question No. 681, dated 22nd February 1935, whether any final decision has been reached by the Government in regard to the undertaking of schemes for the absorption of the unemployed?

A.—In view of the present economic depression and consequent unemployment among the rural population, the Government have sanctioned a scheme involving a capital expenditure of Rs. 50 lakhs for an accelerated programme of improvements to minor works of irrigation on a three-year plan. The programme has been primarily directed to strengthening bunds and, where necessary, other parts of irrigation works, and the works selected have been spread out as far as possible over the various districts due regard being had to the availability of labour, the possible working season, and to the fact that the necessity is less in certain well-favoured tracts. The programme is in course of execution.

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Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I ask the Hon. the Home Member whether the Government had any proposal under consideration for the absorption of the middle class educated unemployed? "

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM :—" We had a full dress debate on the matter."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I ask whether the Government had any schemes or proposals examined regarding the absorption of or relief to be given to the middle class educated unemployed? "

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM :—" It is an impossible task for any Government to absorb all the middle class educated unemployed people."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" May I know if the Government have made any attempt at all to give relief to the educated middle class unemployed—let alone the magnitude of the task? "

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM :—" The whole question has been examined more than once."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" The answer says: 'and the works selected have been spread out as far as possible over the various districts.' May I know which districts have been left out in the scheme and why? "

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM :—" I should like to have notice of that question."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur :—" May I know whether it is a fact that Malabar has been entirely left out of the scheme and, if so, why it was left out? "

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM :—" If there was anything in Malabar on which we could spend a portion of the amount of Rs. 50 lakhs, it could not have been left out."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Will the programme referred to in the answer be made available for the information of the public? "

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM :—" I will consider the hon. Member's suggestion."

Mr. C. BASU DEV :—" May I know if the Government have any proposal under consideration at least to prevent the increase in the number of educated unemployed? "

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM :—" The matter rests completely with the parents."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur :—" May I know whether it is because there is no unemployment in Malabar that it has been left out from the scheme? "

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The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam:—"There must be such kinds of works which would fit in with the scheme which we have formulated and which, when put into execution, would incidentally go to relieve unemployment."

Revival of the activities of the Labour Department in the districts.

* 229 *Q.*—Mr. M. Devadasan: Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the new principle adopted by the Government for the revival of the Labour department in the districts in which the operation of the department was suspended is;

(*b*) in how many districts the Labour department is working at present; and

(*c*) what steps the Government are taking for the extension of the operation of the Labour department in all the districts of the Presidency?

A.—(*a*) & (*c*) The work of the Labour department was closed down in five districts in 1931–32 as a measure of retrenchment. The Government have at present no proposals in hand for reviving the operations in these districts or for extending the work to new districts. The question will be considered when funds permit. Government have not adopted any new principle in the matter.

(*b*) In fifteen districts.

Mr. M. Devadasan:—"The answer says: 'the work of the Labour department was closed down in five districts in 1931–32 as a measure of retrenchment.' May I know whether the Government ever thought of this question subsequent to 1932?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam:—"We were constantly looking into this question and we have said that when funds are available we would extend the activities of this department."

Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai:—"May I know whether the Labour Commissioner has submitted proposals for bringing some other district under the Labour department and whether any report has been received from him?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam:—"I do not think any report has been received, but I know he is considering this question."

Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai:—"May I know what are the activities which will be undertaken by the Labour department if the Government decide to extend their activities?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam:—"The activities will depend upon the amount available at the disposal of the Government."